TAIL OF THE MOON EXTRA: TODAY'S MISSION

"I WANT TO SEE HANZO AS A TEACHER IN SCHOOL!"

-TOMOPYON, HOKKAIDO

IF HANZO WAS MY HOMEROOM TEACHER, I'D NEVER GRADUATE, JUST SO I COULD SEE HIM EVERY DAY.
MY DREAM IS TO BECOME "MRS. HANZO HATTORI."
I'll be a ninth grader again.
SHOCK
I...I'VE GOT A STUDENT REPEATING MY CLASS!!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

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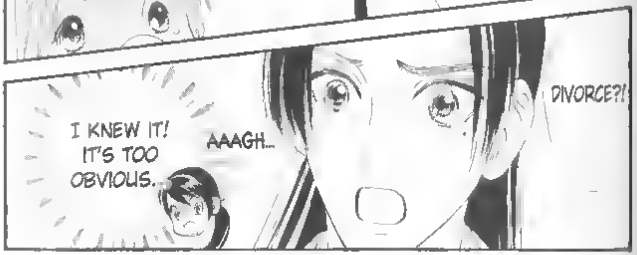
I'M SORRY, HANZO...
JEEZ, IT SOUNDS LIKE A LIE, EVEN TO ME!
...I'VE DIVORCED HANBEI AND I'M CURRENTLY RUNNING A DUMPLING SHOP HERE IN THE CAPITAL
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH ..



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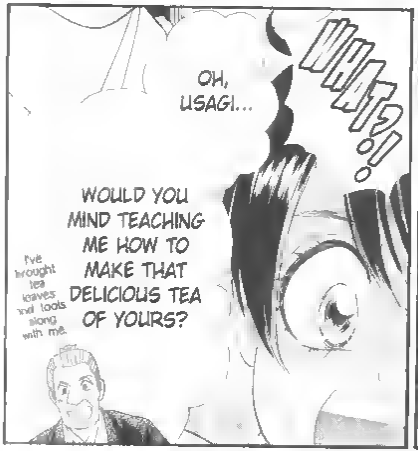
OH, OKAY..
SKRATCH SKRATCH
THEN PLEASE WRITE THE INGREDIENTS DOWN.
I'LL HAVE THEM FETCHED
I ..I DON'T USE REGULAR TEA LEAVES FOR THAT TEA

OH! IS SHE GOING TO BE ATTENDING LORD NOBUNAGA'S TEA CEREMONY TOMORROW?
MASTER RIKYU..
REMEMBER USAGI? YOU MET HER BACK IN AZUCHI.


OH, USAGI...
WHAT?!
WOULD YOU MIND TEACHING ME HOW TO MAKE THAT DELICIOUS TEA OF YOURS?
I've brought tea leaves and tools along with me.

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JUST WHEN...
WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!!
...I FINALLY CONNECTED WITH HANZO...
IF THEY ATTACK US FROM ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS, WE'LL NEVER WIN.
GRAB
WE DIDN'T SUCCEED LAST TIME, SO HE'S GOING TO TRY AND WIN THIS BATTLE AT ALL COSTS.
I'VE HEARD THAT IT'S GOING TO BE LED BY LORD NOBUKATSU.
PRESS
ATTACK ON IGA?!
KEE?
I HEARD THAT WE'RE GOING TO ATTACK FROM ALL FOUR DIRECTIONS.
.OTOGI TOUGE.
I'VE GOT TO WRITE THESE NAMES DOWN!
..LET'S SEE
FROM AOYAMA TOUGE, TAMATAKIGUCHI, KASAMAGUCHI AND..
THAT'S RIGHT
I CAN'T WRITE PROPERLY WITH MY HANDS SHAKING!!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
AOYAMA TO..

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YES, SIR.
WE HAVE A GUEST FOR DINNER, SO PLEASE PREPARE ONE MORE MEAL
TMP
TMP
DUMP
DUMP
I'M GOING TO PROTECT HANZO!!
AND EVERYBODY ELSE AT IGA.. I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO PROTECT THEIR HAPPINESS.
MAMEZO...
GREAT-GRANDPA, GRANDPA ..
...SO WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE AND HAVE DINNER WITH US?
YE... YES?
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME FOR ALL THE TEA INGREDIENTS TO BE READY...
ZWAK
NOW'S THE TIME TO DO MY BEST...
USAGI.

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I'M GOING TO GO TO BED.
YEAH ..
YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL?
MITSU-HIDE.
I'm not too fond of fried food
COULD YOU EAT MINE TOO THEN?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
HE MUST STILL BE SHAKEN FROM BEING CRITICIZED BY LORD NOBUNAGA YESTERDAY
...IS IT TRUE THAT THE SCAR ON HIS FOREHEAD IS FROM BEING ATTACKED BY LORD NOBUNAGA?
THAT'S RIGHT.
LORD NOBUNAGA WAS ENRAGED WHEN MITSUHIDE DIDN'T PICK UP THE GRAIN OF RICE LORD NOBUNAGA HAD DROPPED ON THE FLOOR...
JUST FOR THAT?!
HUH?
MASTER RIKYU.
IT'S RUDE TO BUTT IN ON OTHER PEOPLE'S RELATIONSHIPS.
BY THE WAY, USAGI..
...WHEN DID YOU AND RANMARU BECOME LOVERS?
PEOPLE'S MINDS CAN CHANGE VERY EASILY.
BUT ONLY A WHILE AGO, USAGI WAS...
USAGI, DON'T YOU LIKE THE FOOD?
THIS CRISPY THING'S REALLY DELICIOUS!!
NO, I DO.
GRNCH
GRNCH
IT'S A WESTERN DISH CALLED TEMPURA.
SADANARI MURAI MITSUHIDE AKECHI.
I'VE LEARNED THEIR NAMES AT LAST.
NOW THAT I'M IN THIS SITUATION, I'M GOING TO DO AS MUCH INVESTIGATING AS POSSIBLE !!
IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING A DEVOTED HUSBAND LIKE MITSUHIDE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

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UE-RIN'S WAY OF THE MANGA (15)

Back then, household fax machines, convenience stores and door-to-door delivery service weren't that common. That's why I would photocopy my storyboard at the local stationery (I was exaggerating) store for 30 yen per page, send it by express mail and wait for a reply to come. Unfortunately, the reply from the editor always took a long time. I kept worrying, thinking things like "Maybe it didn't reach them because of some accident." Even though I wanted to call to see if my storyboard got there okay I was kind of scared and embarrassed.

(I never did call them in the end.)

The long waiting time felt like such a waste of time to me.

AND WE'VE GOT THAT TEA CEREMONY TOMORROW, SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY HEAD TO BED.
YOU SEEM TO BE AWFULLY TIRED...
HUH?!
TUC
IT'S A PRIVILEGE THAT ONLY THE YOUNG GET
I WISH I WAS YOUNG AGAIN
TCH
BU...BUT I REALLY CAN'T..
I DON'T WANT TO SLEEP HERE...
WAAH

LORD NOBUNAGA'S LIKE A GOD NOW.
SADANARI.
WELL, WHATEVER THE REASON, IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN MESSING UP A LOT LATELY, ISN'T IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? MITSUHIDE IS A FINE MILITARY COMMANDER.
I KNOW THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE JEALOUS OF HIM FOR BEING PROMOTED SO QUICKLY.
DON'T FORGET THAT WE HAVE A GUEST!
I AM NOT JEALOUS OF HIM!!
USAGI..
I'D LIKE YOU TO STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT.
FOR SIMPLY NOT PICKING UP A GRAIN OF RICE, NOBUNAGA DID SUCH A CRUEL THING...

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I'M SORRY I ASKED YOU TO EAT MY PORTION AS WELL.
TEMPURA IS A DELICACY, BUT IT IS RATHER HEAVY FOR THE STOMACH.
TP
WELL ..MY STOMACH HURTS, SO I WAS GOING TO TAKE SOME MEDICINE
HERE, I'LL POUR YOU SOME WATER.
IT MUST BE THE TEMPURA.
HEY..
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR EYES?
MITSUHIDE ..
YOU'RE SPILLING IT..
AAH!
SPLASH
I NEED TO TAKE SOME MEDICINE...
THAT TEMPURA WAS REALLY GOOD, BUT I ATE TOO MUCH OF IT..
MY STOMACH HURTS TOO...
RUSTLE
HOW CAN I POSSIBLY SLEEP IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?!
I'M TOO NERVOUS TO FALL ASLEEP.
OH
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY ARE YOU UP SO LATE?
A LIGHT...
MAYBE THIS IS THE KITCHEN?

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THANK YOU.
THEN I CAN TAKE IT WITHOUT ANY WORRIES.
GOOD NIGHT.
PHEW
I'M GLAD HE'S HAPPY.
AN HERBALIST FOR LORD IEYASU?!
UH.. UH-HUH...
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT...?!
BUT WE'RE NOT REALLY LOVERS...
BUT..
YOU SHOULD RETURN TO YOUR ROOM QUICKLY TOO.
RANMARU WILL BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I CAN TAKE YOU TO YOUR ROOM IF YOU WANT.
MITSUHIDE'S EYES SEEM TO BE PRETTY BAD.
THERE'S NO NEED

SORRY.
I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO LET ANYONE FIND OUT ABOUT MY EYES...
AH!
I'M SORRY...
SHIVER
SHIVER
DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!!
TREMBLE
I MADE IT.
WHERE IS IT FROM?
IT RELIEVES FATIGUE, BUT IT ALSO HELPS REFRESH THE EYES...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY THIS MEDICINE?
I WAS AN HERBALIST FOR LORD IEYASU FOR A SHORT TIME...
YOU DID?

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I WAS WORRIED SINCE YOU WEREN'T AROUND WHEN I WOKE UP.
STOP JOKING AROUND!!
IS IT THAT MUCH FUN TO TEASE ME?
...
?!
RANMARU ?!
IT'S NOT FUN AT ALL.
WE'RE HAVING A TEA CEREMONY WITH NOBUNAGA TOMORROW TOO...
HUH?
BUT AM I EVEN GOING TO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO IGA?!
ONCE I GO BACK TO IGA, I'LL TRY AND MAKE SOME MEDICINE THAT WILL CURE EYE PROBLEMS..
WHERE DID RANMARU GO ..?
HUG
EEEEK!

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...MISS KUNOICHI FROM IGA.
THE NOTE I WROTE ABOUT THE ATTACK ON IGA!!
DANGLE
I FOUND THIS ON THE FLOOR.
KASA OTOGI TOI
IF SOMEBODY ELSE HAD FOUND THIS...
...YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN...
...DEAD BY NOW...
CRUMPLE

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